

A Genuine  
**NARRATIVE,**  
OF  
**JAMES MATTHISON,**  
Who was Executed this Day at  
Tyburn.

With the Copy of a Letter that James Mat-  
thison, sent to his Sister Day before his  
Execution.



Printed by T. Brown, Westminster.



The Genuine

# NARRATIVE,

ON Wednesday July the 14, 1779  
the Report was made to his  
Majesty, of the convicts under sent-  
ence of death in Newgate, and the  
following were ordered for executi-  
on on Wednesday the 28th Inst.  
viz. James Donnelly otherwise  
Patrick Donnelly, for stoping Mr.  
Fielding in the street in January last  
and demanding from him a present  
or he would charge him with an  
unnatural crime. Upon whom  
Judgment had been respited, the  
opinion of the Judges as followeth :

As to the first point, the Judges  
all clearly held, that here was a fe-

lonious intention :

The prisoner a stranger to Mr. Fielding, stops him in the street after it was dusk, between six and seven o'clock in January, and desired, he would give him a present ; and when Mr. Fielding asked him for what ? he replied, You had better comply, or I will take you before a magistrate, and accuse you of an attempt to commit an unnatural crime.

The conduct of the prisoner will not bear two constructions ; his meaning was to get Mr. Fielding's money from him.

If a man with or without a weapon drawn orders another to deliver his money, it is a robbery.

So where a man, *animo furandi*, demands my money, the words he makes use of seem immaterial whether he says, Give me your money,



or lend me, or make me a présent, or words of the like import, it is a robbery.

On Sunday last a respite came from Lord Waymouth's office to Newgate, Patrick Donnelly, during his Majesty's pleasure.

John Matthison, otherwise Maxwell, was indicted for that he feloniously did forge and counterfeit a Bank note with the name O'Gething thereunto subscribed, purporting to bear date the 2d day of March 1779, and to have been signed by one Owen Gethidg, for the Governor and company of the Bank of England, for the payment of the sum of 20l. to Mr. Robert Gordon or bearer on demand the tenor of which said forged and counterfeited note is as followeth, that is to say

No. 151

17 79

I promise to pay to Mr. Robert Goordon or bearer on demand the sum of 20 pounds,

London, the 2d day of March,  
1779, for the governon and  
company of the Bank of Eng-  
land. O. Geething.

£. Twenty  
Entd R. Lateward.

with an intent to defraud the go-  
vernor and company of the Bank  
of England, March 9th.

*2d Count.* For forging a note in  
the form of a Bank note, with the  
like intention.

*3d Count* The same as the first  
only with intention to defraud Mr.  
Man.

*4th Count.* The same as the se-  
cond with intent to defraud Ed-  
ward Man.

*5th Count.* For forging a promissory note, with intention to defraud Edward Man.

*6th Count.* The same as the 5th with intention to defraud the governor and company of the Bank of England.

John Matthison was 36 years of age, born at Bermingham of creditable parents, was well brought up and received a good education, when he arrived to the age of fifteen years he was put apprentice to a Watch-Maker and engraver, with whom he served a regular time, but of a gay disposition and fond of company it threw him into extravagancies and at length has brought him to his untimely end.—He behaved with penitance and exhorted all young men to take warning by his wretched fate,



James Matthison's Speech at the  
place of Execution.

I account this ignominious death as a just judgment for my sins against the Divine Majesty, and my neighbour ; and therefore patiently resign myself to his blessed will, and hope (with true repentance, and a steadfast faith in Christ Jesus) he will seal my pardon in Heaven before I go hence, and be no more seen ; and I bless God, I have had more consolation under our condemnation, than ever I had these many years ; and I hope those who survive me, will take warning by my fatal end.

## A true Copy of a Letter,

DEAR SISTER,

**I** hope these few lines may not make too great an impression on your (I am sensible) afflicted mind, but let your prayers be to Almighty God, in whom I am perfectly resigned, for my departing soul, whose mercies are great to all Sinners; my proceedings for a long time past you have been intirely ignorant, I confess my crime is great, for which I implore the forgiveness of all mankind as I sincerely forgive my prosecutor. My dear sister, make yourself easy on my misfortune, cast the thoughts of my unhappy end from your mind, when I have departed this life, Adieu adieu.

JAMES MATTHISON.